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DATE: Wednesday, August 17, 2005

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	DB=PGPB, US	PT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB,DWPI; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR:	=YES; OP=ADJ
	L15	L14 and oxygen	12
	L14	L13 and steam reform\$3	12
	L13	L12 and hydrogen with fuel	12
	L12	L11 not l6	12
	. L11	L10 and synthesis gas	14
	L10	L9 or 18	15
	L9	pressure swing reform\$3	15
	L8	pressure swing reformer	11
	L7	15 not 16	. 28
	L6	L5 and steam with compressor	3
	L5	L4 and synthesis gas	31
	L4	separated hydrogen with fuel	244
	L3	L1 and hydrogen same fuel	1
	L2	L1 and hydrogen with fuel	0
	L1	6512018.pn.	2

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                  data from INPADOC
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         FEB 28
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      4
 NEWS
      5
         MAR 02
                  GBFULL: New full-text patent database on STN
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         MAR 03
       6
                  REGISTRY/ZREGISTRY - Sequence annotations enhanced
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         MAR 22 KOREAPAT now updated monthly; patent information enhanced
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                  REGISTRY/ZREGISTRY enhanced with experimental property tags
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      12 APR 04
                  EPFULL enhanced with additional patent information and new
                  fields
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 NEWS
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      17 MAY 23
                  GBFULL enhanced with patent drawing images
      18 MAY 23
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                  REGISTRY has been enhanced with source information from
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                  FRFULL enhanced with patent drawing images
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NEWS
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                  and text labels
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      24 JUL 07
                  STN Patent Forums to be held in July 2005
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      25 JUL 13
                  SCISEARCH reloaded
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      26 JUL 20
                  Powerful new interactive analysis and visualization software,
                  STN AnaVist, now available
                  Derwent World Patents Index(R) web-based training during
NEWS
      27 AUG 11
                  August
NEWS
      28 AUG 11
                  STN AnaVist workshops to be held in North America
NEWS EXPRESS
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              MACINTOSH VERSION IS V6.0c(ENG) AND V6.0Jc(JP),
              AND CURRENT DISCOVER FILE IS DATED 13 JUNE 2005
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FULL ESTIMATED COST

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SINCE FILE TOTAL
ENTRY SESSION
FULL ESTIMATED COST
0.06
0.27

FILE 'HOME' ENTERED AT 10:45:19 ON 17 AUG 2005

=> file caplus

COST IN U.S. DOLLARS

FULL ESTIMATED COST

SINCE FILE TOTAL ENTRY SESSION 0.21 0.48

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=> s pressure swing reform?
       1130261 PRESSURE
       167994 PRESSURES
       1193950 PRESSURE
                 (PRESSURE OR PRESSURES)
          7074 SWING
          761 SWINGS
          7751 SWING
                 (SWING OR SWINGS)
         45292 REFORM?
L1
           10 PRESSURE SWING REFORM?
                 (PRESSURE (W) SWING (W) REFORM?)
=> s l1 and synthesis gas
       1197824 SYNTHESIS
            3 SYNTHESISES
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       1234406 SYNTHESIS
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       1442792 GAS
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                 (SYNTHESIS (W) GAS)
L2
            9 L1 AND SYNTHESIS GAS
=> s 12 and steam reform?
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           432 STEAMS
        199023 STEAM
                 (STEAM OR STEAMS)
         45292 REFORM?
         7744 STEAM REFORM?
                 (STEAM (W) REFORM?)
L3
             8 L2 AND STEAM REFORM?
=> d 13 ibib ab 1-8
    ANSWER 1 OF 8 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2005 ACS on STN
L3
ACCESSION NUMBER:
                        2005:611848 CAPLUS
DOCUMENT NUMBER:
                        143:99286
TITLE:
                        Methanol manufacture using pressure-
                        swing reforming
                        Hershkowitz, Frank; Lattner, James R.
INVENTOR(S):
PATENT ASSIGNEE(S):
                        USA
SOURCE:
                        U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ., 19 pp., Cont.-in-part of U.S.
                        Ser. No. 738,782.
                        CODEN: USXXCO
DOCUMENT TYPE:
                        Patent
LANGUAGE:
                        English
FAMILY ACC. NUM. COUNT:
PATENT INFORMATION:
     PATENT NO.
                        KIND
                               DATE
                                           APPLICATION NO.
                                                                  DATE
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                                                                  -----
                                           US 2004-11984
    US 2005154068
                         A1
                               20050714
                                                                  20041214
                        A1
    US 2005137269
                               20050623
                                           US 2003-738782
                                                                 20031217
                                           US 2003-738782 A2 20031217
PRIORITY APPLN. INFO.:
    A process for producing methanol is described in which a hydrocarbon is
     steam reformed in a reforming zone, and during the
    reforming stage, of a cyclic steam reformer having a
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reforming stage and a regeneration stage, the steam

reforming being conducted under conditions effective to produce a

first effluent stream containing synthesis gas (i.e., a H2-CO mixture). Fuel and an oxygen-containing gas are combusted in the regeneration stage of the reformer so as to reheat the reforming zone to a temperature sufficient for the reforming stage and generate a flue gas. At least part of the first effluent stream is contacted with a methanol synthesis catalyst under conditions effective to convert synthesis gas to methanol and form a methanol-containing stream and a tail gas stream comprising unreacted carbon monoxide and hydrogen. At least part of the tail gas stream is recycled as fuel for the regeneration stage of the cyclic steam reformer. Process flow diagrams are presented.

ANSWER 2 OF 8 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2005 ACS on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2004:802239 CAPLUS

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 141:262839

Hydrogen manufacture using pressure TITLE:

swing reforming

INVENTOR (S): Hershkowitz, Frank; Segarich, Robert L.

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S):

SOURCE: U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ., 13 pp., Cont.-in-part of U.S. Ser. No. 756,652.

CODEN: USXXCO

DOCUMENT TYPE:

Patent English

LANGUAGE: FAMILY ACC. NUM. COUNT:

PATENT INFORMATION:

PA	PATENT NO.			KIND DATE			APPLICATION NO.						DATE				
US	2004	1911	66		A1	-	2004	0930	1	US 2	004-	7719	 19		20	0040	204
US	2004	1705	59		A1		2004	0902	1	US 2	004-'	7566	52		20	040	113
WO	2004	0786	44		<b>A1</b>		2004	0916	1	WO 2	004-1	US42	69		20	040	213
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		MZ,	MZ,	NA,	NI												
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		BG,	CH,	CY,	CZ,	DE,	DK,	EE,	ES,	FI,	FR,	GB,	GR,	HU,	IE,	IT,	LU,
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PRIORITY	APP	LN.	INFO	. :					1	US 2	003-4	4509	03P	1	2 (	0030	228
									1	US 2	004-1	7566	52	7	A2 20	040	113
									,	TC 2	004	7710	10	,	` ^		204

US 2004-771919 A 20040204 AB The invention provides a method for generating high pressure hydrogen at improved thermal efficiencies. First a synthesis gas stream at a first pressure is produced in a pressure swing reformer. Next the synthesis

gas stream is subjected to a high temperature water gas shift process to produce a hydrogen enriched stream from which high pressure hydrogen is obtained. Specific embodiments of the invention involve: regenerating the reformer at a pressure lower than the synthesis gas generation; operating the synthesis gas generation step at conditions sufficient to provide a syn gas stream at a temperature in

the range used in the water gas shift reaction; and using pressure swing adsorption to sep. the hydrogen.

ANSWER 3 OF 8 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2005 ACS on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2004:759843 CAPLUS

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 141:279433

TITLE: Liquid hydrocarbon synthesis process using pressure-swing reforming

INVENTOR(S):

Hershkowitz, Frank

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S):

SOURCE:

U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ., 15 pp., Cont.-in-part of U.S.

Pat. Appl. 2004 170,558.

CODEN: USXXCO

DOCUMENT TYPE:

Patent

LANGUAGE:

English

FAMILY ACC. NUM. COUNT:

PATENT INFORMATION:

PATENT NO.	KIND	DATE	APPLICATION NO.	DATE	
US 2004180973	<b>A1</b>	20040916	US 2004-771920	20040204	
US 2004170558	A1	20040902	US 2004-756651	20040113	
PRIORITY APPLN. INFO.:			US 2003-450902P	P 20030228	
			US 2004-756651	A2 20040113	

A method is described for producing liquid hydrocarbons by first generating AB in a pressure-swing reformer a synthesis gas stream having a mole ratio of H2-CO greater than 2:1. Then, a portion of the hydrogen is separated to produce a synthesis gas stream having a mole ratio of H2-CO of about 2:1 which steam is then introduced into a hydrocarbon synthesis reactor for conversion to liquid products. Process flow diagrams are presented.

ANSWER 4 OF 8 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2005 ACS on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER:

2004:756641 CAPLUS

DOCUMENT NUMBER:

141:245651

TITLE:

Hydrogen manufacture using pressure

swing reforming

INVENTOR (S):

Hershkowitz, Frank; Segarich, Robert L.

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): SOURCE:

ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company, USA

PCT Int. Appl., 34 pp.

CODEN: PIXXD2

DOCUMENT TYPE:

Patent

LANGUAGE:

English

FAMILY ACC. NUM. COUNT:

PATENT INFORMATION:

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								SI,										
								SN,										
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	US	2004	1911	66		A1		2004	0930	1	US 2	004-	7719	19		2	0040	204
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										1	US 2	004-	7566	52		A 2	0040	113
										1	US 2	004-	7719	19		A 2	0040	204
AB	Αn	netho	d for	r ge	nerai	tina	hia	h nr	egg111	re h	varo	Ten :	at in	mnro	, har	ther	mal	

AΒ A method for generating high pressure hydrogen at improved thermal efficiencies is described. First a synthesis gas stream at a first pressure is produced in a pressure swing reformer. Next the synthesis

gas stream is subjected to a high temperature water gas shift process to produce a hydrogen enriched stream from which high pressure hydrogen is obtained. Specific embodiments of the invention involve: regenerating the reformer at a pressure lower than the synthesis gas generation; operating the synthesis gas generation

step at conditions sufficient to provide a syngas stream at a temperature in the

range used in the water gas shift reaction; and using pressure swing adsorption to sep. the hydrogen.

REFERENCE COUNT: THERE ARE 1 CITED REFERENCES AVAILABLE FOR THIS 1 RECORD. ALL CITATIONS AVAILABLE IN THE RE FORMAT

ANSWER 5 OF 8 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2005 ACS on STN L3

ACCESSION NUMBER:

2004:739731 CAPLUS

DOCUMENT NUMBER:

141:209842

TITLE:

Pressure swing reforming

to produce hydrogen for fuel cell systems

INVENTOR (S):

Hershkowitz, Frank; Berlowitz, Paul J.; Partridge,

Randall D.

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S):

USA

SOURCE:

U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ., 17 pp.

CODEN: USXXCO

DOCUMENT TYPE:

Patent

LANGUAGE:

English

FAMILY ACC. NUM. COUNT:

PATENT INFORMATION:

PAT	ENT 1	NO.			KIN	D	DATE			APPL	ICAT	ION I	NO.		D	ATE	
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PRIOR

US 2004-756647

AB Hydrogen for the use as fuel in fuel cells is produced by steam reforming a hydrocarbon-containing feed in a 1st zone of a reactor containing a bed packing material and a reforming catalyst, passing at least a portion of the product through a 2nd zone of the reactor containing bed packing material to transfer heat to the packing material, removing the hydrogen-rich product from the 2nd zone, introducing an oxygen-containing gas into the 2nd zone and combusting the gas and a fuel in a region proximate to an interface between the 1st and the 2nd zone to produce heat which is transferred to the 1st zone of the reactor. The catalyst can contain noble metals, group VIII metal components, Ag, Ce, Cu, La, Mo, Mg, Sn, Ti, Y, or Zn. The bed packing material can be magnesium aluminum silicates, aluminum silicate clays, mullite, alumina, silica-alumina, or zirconia. Pressure swing reforming may be integrated

with shift reactions, preferential oxidation, and membrane separation, achieving

thermal and material efficiencies relative to conventional hydrogen production

ANSWER 6 OF 8 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2005 ACS on STN ACCESSION NUMBER: 2004:722711 CAPLUS

DOCUMENT NUMBER:

141:192839

TITLE:

Hydrogen manufacture using pressure

swing reforming

INVENTOR(S):

Hershkowitz, Frank; Segarich, Robert L.

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S):

USA

SOURCE:

U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ., 12 pp.

CODEN: USXXCO

DOCUMENT TYPE:

Patent

LANGUAGE:

English

FAMILY ACC. NUM. COUNT: PATENT INFORMATION:

PATENT NO. KIND DATE APPLICATION NO. DATE -----\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ -----\_\_\_\_\_ 20040902 US 2004-756652 US 2004170559 **A1** 20040113 US 2004-771919 US 2004191166 **A1** 20040930 WO 2004078644 A1 20040916 WO 2004-US4269 20040213 AE, AE, AG, AL, AL, AM, AM, AT, AT, AU, AZ, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BG, BR, BR, BW, BY, BY, BZ, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CN, CO, CO, CR, CR, CU, CU, CZ, CZ, DE, DE, DK, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EC, EE, EE, EG, ES, ES, FI, FI, GB, GD, GE, GE, GH, GM, HR, HR, HU, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, JP, KE, KE, KG, KG, KP, KP, KR, KR, KZ, KZ, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MX, MZ, MZ, NA, NI RW: BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR, BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG, BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG

PRIORITY APPLN. INFO.:

US 2003-450903P P 20030228 US 2004-756652 A2 20040113 US 2004-771919 A 20040204

Hydrogen is produced by introducing a feed stream containing a hydrocarbon and AB steam through a 1st end of a 1st zone containing bed packing materials and a steam reforming catalyst to produce a syngas stream containing H2, CO, steam, and CO2, passing the produced syngas stream to a 2nd zone containing bed packing materials thereby transferring heat from the product to the packing materials, removing the product syngas from the 2nd zone and passing it to a water gas shift reactor to convert CO with steam to CO2 and H2, introducing the obtained H2-enriched stream to a pressure swing adsorption apparatus to sep. H2 from a byproduct stream, introducing an oxygen-containing gas into the 2nd end of the 2nd zone, and contacting it with fuel to reheat the 1st zone with the heat of combustion and creating a flue gas which exits through the 1st end of the 1st zone. The packing material of the 1st and 2nd zones can be aluminum magnesium silicates, clays, silica-alumina, or zirconia.

ANSWER 7 OF 8 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2005 ACS on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER:

2004:722710 CAPLUS

DOCUMENT NUMBER:

141:209840

TITLE:

Hydrocarbon synthesis process using syngas from

pressure swing reforming

INVENTOR(S):

Hershkowitz, Frank

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S):

USA

SOURCE:

U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ., 14 pp.

CODEN: USXXCO

DOCUMENT TYPE:

Patent

LANGUAGE:

English

FAMILY ACC. NUM. COUNT:

PATENT INFORMATION:

PATENT NO.	KIND	DATE	APPLICATION NO.	DATE
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US 2004180973
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PRIORITY APPLN. INFO.:
                                               US 2003-450902P
                                                                    P 20030228
                                               US 2004-756651
                                                                    A2 20040113
AB
     Liquid hydrocarbons are produced by (a) generating a synthesis
     gas stream having a mole ratio of H2:CO >2:1 in a pressure
     swing reformer with a 1st zone containing bed packing
     materials, (b) passing a portion of the product to a 2nd zone containing bed
     packing materials to transfer heat from the product to the packing
     material, (c) removing the product stream from the 2nd zone, (d)
     introducing an oxygen-containing gas into a 2nd end of the 2nd zone to combust
     a fuel thereby reheating the 1st zone to reforming temperature and creating a
     flue gas which exits the 1st end of the 1st zone, (e) separating a portion of
     hydrogen from the product recovered in (c) to produce a synthesis
     gas stream having a H2:CO ratio of about 2:1, (f) using separated H2
     as fuel in step (d), and (g) introducing the synthesis
     gas of step (e) into a hydrocarbon synthesis reactor.
L3 . ANSWER 8 OF 8 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2005 ACS on STN
                          2003:1007569 CAPLUS
ACCESSION NUMBER:
DOCUMENT NUMBER:
                          140:29338
TITLE:
                          Pressure swing reforming
                          to produce synthesis gas
INVENTOR (S):
                          Hershkowitz, Frank; Deckman, Harry W.
PATENT ASSIGNEE(S):
                          USA
SOURCE:
                          U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ., 10 pp.
                          CODEN: USXXCO
                          Patent
DOCUMENT TYPE:
LANGUAGE:
                          English
FAMILY ACC. NUM. COUNT:
                          1
PATENT INFORMATION:
     PATENT NO.
                          KIND
                                  DATE
                                              APPLICATION NO.
                                                                       DATE
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     US 2003235529
                           A1
                                  20031225
                                               US 2003-458399
                                                                        20030610
     CA 2491231
                           AA
                                  20031231
                                               CA 2003-2491231
                                                                        20030624
     WO 2004000725
                           A1
                                               WO 2003-US20792
                                  20031231
                                                                        20030624
             AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
             CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
             GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR,
             LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH,
             PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ,
             UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW
         RW: GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW, AM, AZ, BY,
             KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES,
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FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR, BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG

R: AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IT, LI, LU, NL, SE, MC, PT, IE, SI, LT, LV, FI, RO, MK, CY, AL, TR, BG, CZ, EE, HU, SK

BR 2003-12076

EP 2003-761354

20030624

20030624

20050322

20050518

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**A1** 

BR 2003012076

EP 1530549

PRIORITY APPLN. INFO .: .

US 2002-391360P P 20020625 US 2003-458399 A 20030610 WO 2003-US20792 W 20030624

AB Synthesis gas is produced by a cyclic reforming and re-heating process including reforming a hydrocarbon feed over a catalyst to synthesis gas in a 1st zone of a bed and the 2nd step reheats this 1st zone. A hydrocarbon feed is introduced to a bed along with CO2 and optionally steam where it is reformed into synthesis gas. The synthesis gas is collected at a 2nd zone of the bed and an oxygen-containing gas is then introduced to this 2nd zone of the bed and combusted with a fuel, thereby reheating the 1st zone to sufficient reforming temps. Addnl., a noncombusting gas can also be introduced to the 2nd zone to move heat from the 2nd zone to the 1st zone. The reforming catalyst can contain noble metals, group VIII metals, Ag, Ce, Cu, La, Mo, Mg, Sn, Ti, Y, and Zn. The packing materials of the 1st and 2nd zones can consist of magnesium aluminum silicates, aluminum silicate clays, mullite, alumina, silica-alumina, or zirconia.

## => d his

(FILE 'HOME' ENTERED AT 10:45:03 ON 17 AUG 2005)

FILE 'STNGUIDE' ENTERED AT 10:45:12 ON 17 AUG 2005

FILE 'HOME' ENTERED AT 10:45:19 ON 17 AUG 2005

FILE 'CAPLUS' ENTERED AT 10:45:36 ON 17 AUG 2005

L1 10 S PRESSURE SWING REFORM?

L2 9 S L1 AND SYNTHESIS GAS

L3 8 S L2 AND STEAM REFORM?

=> s 11 not 13

L4 2 L1 NOT L3

=> d l4 ibib ab 1-2

L4 ANSWER 1 OF 2 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2005 ACS on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER:

2005:738541 CAPLUS

TITLE:

Pressure swing reforming

AUTHOR (S):

of liquid fuels for hydrogen production Socha, Richard F.; Berlowitz, Paul J.; Hershkowitz,

Frank

CORPORATE SOURCE:

Corporate Strategic Reseach, ExxonMobil Research and

Engineering Company, Annandale, NJ, 08801, USA

SOURCE:

Abstracts of Papers, 230th ACS National Meeting, Washington, DC, United States, Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 2005

(2005), FUEL-037. American Chemical Society:

Washington, D. C. CODEN: 69HFCL

DOCUMENT TYPE:

Conference; Meeting Abstract; (computer optical disk)

LANGUAGE: English

Pressure Swing Reforming (PSR) is a new process for the production of hydrogen from hydrocarbon fuels. It was first demonstrated in our labs. using methane as the fuel. We have now extended the operation to a variety of gasoline-range hydrocarbons having sulfur contents up to 320 ppm. PSR uses a cyclic reverse-flow reactor to generate high-pressure (e.g. 1000 kPa) undiluted synthesis gas (CO+H2) at high temperature (up to about 1200°C) over a reforming catalyst but keeps the inlet and outlet gases at a relatively low temperature (less than 400°C). In the forward direction, steam and fuel are introduced for reforming for a period of about 3 s to 3 min. The process flow is then reversed and waste fuel is burned on the catalyst to supply the heat

of reaction for the next reforming cycle. This minimizes the need for external heat exchange, making the process highly compact, and ideally suited to small systems incorporating a fuel cell.

L4 ANSWER 2 OF 2 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2005 ACS on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2004:1080308 CAPLUS

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 142:41241

TITLE: Reforming unit for hydrocarbons and alcohols

integrated with pressure-swing adsorption for manufacture of hydrogen fuel for fuel cells

INVENTOR(S): Okada, Hiraku; Machida, Hiroshi; Yoshida, Nobuyoshi

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): Honda Motor Co., Ltd., Japan SOURCE: U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ., 14 pp.

CODEN: USXXCO

DOCUMENT TYPE: Patent LANGUAGE: English

LANGUAGE: Englis
FAMILY ACC. NUM. COUNT: 1

PATENT INFORMATION:

PATENT NO.	KIND	DATE	APPLICATION NO.	DATE		
US 2004250472	A1	20041216	US 2004-869173	20040616		
JP 2005008434	A2	20050113	JP 2003-170961	20030616		
PRIORITY APPLN. INFO.:			JP 2003-170961 A	20030616		

AB A hydrogen-rich fuel gas, suitable for use in fuel cells, is manufactured by reforming of hydrocarbon or alc. fuels by: (1) passing the reformed fuel gas through a pressure-swing adsorption mechanism to remove combustible impurities and obtain the hydrogen-rich gas, and (2) combusting the impurities as a heat source, in which the amount of combustion air to the combustion chamber is controlled by measuring the changes in released heat energy from the impurities. An electronic control unit is installed to control the amount of combustion air to the furnace for combustion of the impurities recovered from the pressure-swing adsorption unit.